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PATENT

C1
wherein a first amino acid sequence comprising the polypeptide binds to a second amino acid sequence comprising SEQ ID NO:2 in a yeast two-hybrid binding assay.

2. (Once amended) The construct of claim 1, wherein the polynucleotide sequence is from a rice plant.

C2
3. 13. (Once amended) The construct of claim 1, wherein the polynucleotide sequence is SEQ ID NO:3.

C3
4. 22. (Once amended) The construct of claim 1, wherein the polynucleotide sequence encodes SEQ ID:4.

C4
31. (Twice Amended) A transgenic plant comprising a recombinant expression cassette comprising a plant promoter operably linked to a polynucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide that is at least 80% identical to SEQ ID NO:4, wherein the polynucleotide sequence, when introduced into a plant, enhances the plant's resistance to pathogens compared to resistance of a plant not transformed with the polynucleotide sequence, and

wherein a first amino acid sequence comprising the polypeptide binds to a second amino acid sequence comprising SEQ ID NO:2 in a yeast two-hybrid binding assay.

C5
11. 43. (Once amended) The transgenic plant of claim 31, wherein the polynucleotide sequence is SEQ ID NO:3.

C6
12. 52. (Once amended) The transgenic plant of claim 31, wherein the polynucleotide sequence encodes SEQ ID:4.

C7
60. (Twice Amended) A method of enhancing resistance to pathogens in a plant, the method comprising

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C7
1) introducing into the plant a recombinant expression cassette comprising a plant promoter operably linked to a polynucleotide sequence, wherein the polynucleotide sequence encodes a polypeptide that is at least 80% identical to SEQ ID NO:4, wherein a first amino acid sequence comprising the polypeptide binds with a second amino acid sequence comprising SEQ ID NO:2 when assayed in a yeast two-hybrid binding assay; and

2) selecting a plant with enhanced pathogen resistance compared to resistance of a plant not transformed with the recombinant expression cassette.

CB
6. 70. (Once amended) The construct of claim 30, wherein the promoter is constitutive.

7. 71. (Once amended) The construct of claim 30, wherein the promoter is inducible.

8. 72. (Once amended) The construct of claim 30, wherein the promoter is tissue-specific.

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the helpful telephone conference. It is Applicants' understanding that with entry of this Amendment, the claims are allowable. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is therefore respectfully requested.